

Appl. No. : 09/231,415
Filed : January 14, 1999

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers, each purchase request belonging to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests; and

a purchase request management module that permits each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer.

27. (Previously presented) The management system as defined in Claim 26, additionally comprising a dealer terminal, said dealer terminal displaying a split screen and the split screen listing the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side.

28. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 27, wherein said list of purchase requests includes an assigned user.

29. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 27, wherein said purchase request details includes a purchase request task list.

30. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 29, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigned user.

31. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 29, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigning user.

32. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 26, wherein said user is a sales manager.

33. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 26, wherein said user is a salesperson.

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34. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system having a system database, said system database including an exclusive database region for each of a plurality of dealers, said system database containing at least one purchase request, wherein at least one user has access to said purchase request in said exclusive database region, said management system comprising:

means for storing a plurality of sets of purchase requests received from potential buyers, wherein each set of purchase requests is associated with one of a plurality of dealers and each purchase request belongs to at least one set of purchase requests and fewer than all sets of purchase requests;

means for listing only the set of said purchase requests associated with a dealer;

means for displaying details of the listed set of said purchase requests; and

means for acting on the listed set of said purchase requests, wherein said acting ~~means comprises~~includes ~~utilizing~~ one or more action response modules, and wherein said listing means, said displaying means, and said acting means permit each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer.

35. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said means for displaying displays a purchase request list on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side.

36. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 35, wherein said purchase request list includes an assigned user.

37. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 35, wherein said purchase request detail includes a purchase request task list.

38. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 37, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigned user.

39. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 37, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigning user.

40. (Original) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said user is a sales manager.

41. (Original Claim 42) The management system as defined in Claim 34, wherein said user is a salesperson.

42-76 (Cancelled)

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77. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein a user remotely accesses the management system.

78. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes storing a status indicator associated with each purchase request.

79. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 78, wherein the status indicator is selected from a group including at least quoted, pending, and sold.

80. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

81. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 80, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes assigning a task to a user.

82. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes assigning a priority level to a purchase request.

83. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, wherein each purchase request belongs to only one set.

84. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 26, further comprising a plurality of distinct database regions, wherein each set is stored in one database region.

85. (Previously Presented) The management system of Claim 84, wherein each database region is associated with one dealer.

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86. (Currently Amended) A purchase request management system remotely accessible by a user comprising:

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers, each purchase request belonging to at least one set and fewer than all sets;

a plurality of distinct database regions, each database region associated with one dealer, wherein each set of purchase requests is stored in one database region; and

a purchase request management module that permits each dealer to access and manage only the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer, wherein accessing and managing purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

87. (New) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests; and

a purchase request management module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access or manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer.

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88. (New) A purchase request management system remotely accessible by a user comprising:

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests, the purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests;

a plurality of distinct database regions, each database region associated with one dealer, wherein each set of purchase requests is stored in one database region; and

a purchase request management module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access and manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer, wherein accessing and managing the associated set of purchase requests as permitted by the purchase request management module includes associating a task with a purchase request.

89. (New) A purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request management system is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a system database comprising a plurality of sets of purchase requests received from potential buyers and stored in the database, said purchase requests relating to a category of goods or services, each set of purchase requests associated with one of a plurality of dealers, all of said plurality of dealers offering goods or services that are within the category of goods or services related to said purchase requests, each purchase request belonging to at least one of the sets of purchase requests and fewer than all of the sets of purchase requests; and

a purchase request management module that permits each dealer to access and manage the set of purchase requests associated with the dealer and does not permit the dealer to access and manage the sets of purchase requests that are not associated with the dealer.

90. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 89, wherein the category of goods or services comprises automotive goods or services.

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91. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a purchase request management module configured to associate a task to a purchase request, determine a purchase request priority, associate a task with a purchase request, and assign a purchase request task to a user.

92. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a purchase request listing module configured to list purchase requests according to date, status, and customer name.

93. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein the action response modules comprise a status change module configured to change the status of one or more purchase requests in response to user interaction with the one or more purchase requests.

94. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase a good or service.

95. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 34, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

96. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 86, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

97. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 87, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

98. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 88, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

99. (New) The purchase request management system of Claim 89, wherein each of the purchase requests represents a potential buyer's non-binding intent to purchase one or more goods or services.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claim 26.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

United States Patent No. 5,592,375 to Salmon.

Proposed Amendments

None.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

The Applicants' Attorney asked the Examiner for clarification of how the Examiner had applied the Salmon patent. The Applicants' Attorney explained to the Examiner that the Salmon patent does not teach all of the claim limitations. The Applicants' Attorney particularly discussed with the Examiner the claim phrases "a system database," "a plurality of sets of purchase requests . . . each set . . . associated with one or a plurality of dealers," and "a purchase request management module."

Results of Interview

The Examiner indicated that she would review the Salmon patent and decide whether to withdraw the Final Office Action. As indicated by the Office Action mailed December 30, 2003, to which this Amendment and Response is responsive, the Examiner did withdraw the Final Office Action and issued the December 30, 2003 Office Action.